

reflects only the incidences where a police report was actually filed. Domestic violence knows no boundaries, crossing all economic, race, and other barriers to disrupt families.

VAWA funds critical programs that assist millions of battered women and children nationwide. Congress took the right steps last year by fully funding the VAWA programs administered by the Department of Justice; however, several critical programs in the Department of Health and Human Services were funded at amounts well below what was needed and what was authorized in VAWA 2000. Some VAWA programs were not funded at all. We just found out that the President's fiscal 2004 budget would cut \$19.2 million from crucial VAWA programs. I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing these cuts. At a time when States face a looming budget crisis and a broad spectrum of important programs are slated for funding cuts, I believe that we owe it to families caught in the devastating cycle of domestic abuse to fully fund all VAWA programs.

SUPPORTING THE SOCIAL SECURITY PROTECTION ACT

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 743, the Social Security Protection Act of 2003. This is a piece of legislation that strengthens Social Security for all those hard workers who have worked their entire lives paying their payroll taxes and protects those beneficiaries who rely on others to manage their affairs and their benefits. Our Nation's retirement system gives economic security to those hard workers, and they deserve a secure retirement system. Therefore, as Members of Congress, one of our first priorities must be to protect and ensure that Social Security benefits are there for our seniors.

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Thankfully, this piece of legislation does just that. Many beneficiaries, it seems, are unable to manage their own affairs and depend on other representatives to take care of them for it. Unfortunately and sadly, there are others that are not so reputable and considerate in taking care of those affairs, and therefore, we are fortunate indeed to have H.R. 743, which will crack down on the wrongdoings and strengthen oversight and enhance penalties and collection for the benefits misuse.

If we are going to ensure Social Security and the promises of Social Security to our seniors, we must enact this legislation for our future benefits for our seniors of this Nation.

A SAFEPLACE FOR AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES PROVIDING MUCH-NEEDED SERVICES

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, for over 25 years, a concerned group of Austinites now operating as SafePlace have delivered invaluable services to victims of domestic violence. Special thanks go to Kelly White for her leadership and to Laura Wolf for her development work during these tough economic times.

I joined them yesterday here in the Capitol to hear the moving words of Kimberley Wiseman and announce the involvement of SafePlace with the Office for Victims of Crimes in expanding services across the country at 10 different sites, from Tucson to Worcester, to assist individuals with disabilities, who have about twice the rate of victimization from domestic violence as those who are without disabilities.

Despite our concerted efforts to address domestic violence, the Department of Justice reported just last week that there were almost 600,000 cases of violence against women in America during 2001. Of these, at least one in five involve domestic violence. That is why it is so very important that we here in Congress act to provide full federal funding under the Violence Against Women Act to support local efforts like SafePlace, to give them the resources to both counsel and assist those who are victims of domestic violence, but, equally important, to prevent it in the future.

END DOUBLE TAXATION OF DIVIDENDS

(Mr. CHOCOLA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHOCOLA. Madam Speaker, President Bush said in his State of the Union address, "The best and fairest way to make sure that Americans have more money is not to tax it away in the first place."

Fundamental tax reform will allow all Americans to keep more of their own money instead of sending it to Washington, and abolishing the double tax on dividends is an important first step.

Under current tax law, income earned by corporations is taxed twice, both at the corporate level and the individual level. Ending the doubling taxation of dividends would benefit millions of Americans who invest in successful companies, either directly or through retirement accounts like IRAs.

Eliminating this extra tax burden will provide \$20 billion in tax relief to Americans this year alone, resulting in higher levels of economic output and job creation, again starting this year.

Fixing this flaw in the Tax Code is particularly good for seniors. Almost half of all savings from the dividend exemption would go to taxpayers 65 and older. The average savings for the 9.8 million seniors receiving dividends would be \$936.

Madam Speaker, it is fair to tax companies profits. It is unfair to tax that profit again when it is distributed to individuals. For the good of our economy and the good of all Americans, Congress should move quickly to end the double taxation of dividend income.

RECOGNIZING THE SECOND ANNUAL STOP VIOLENCE WEEK IN WASHINGTON

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of those fighting domestic violence in our communities.

Historically we have viewed domestic violence as a woman's issue, and statistics tend to support that school of thought. Nearly one-third of American women report being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives, every 2 minutes a woman is raped in the United States, and more than 500,000 women are stalked every year.

But as we all become more educated on the causes and the effects of such actions, we realize that this is a problem that is not gender-biased, but one that touches every aspect of our society. It affects families, children, friends and even coworkers.

More and more, men are joining the voices in the fight against domestic violence, and I applaud them for having the insight to understand that this is more than a woman's issue and that it is everybody's responsibility. And I applaud organizations like the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence for continuing to raise awareness of this issue and for all who join them to protect women across this country and in the world.

STOP VIOLENCE WEEK IN WASHINGTON

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Stop Violence Week in Washington.

The Violence against Women Act has rescued countless women from the vicious cycle of family violence, but there is so much more to be done. That is why we cannot abandon our commitment to protecting women from domestic abuse and sexual assault here at home and around the globe. We cannot let the campaign to wage war with Iraq drown out our war against domestic violence and sexual assault.